

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining ~~a composition comprising an~~ aromatic polyamide containing para-phenylene terephthalamide and 2-(p-phenylene)benzimidazole terephthalamide units, in the form of a crumb, by copolymerizing:

- i) a mole % of para-phenylenediamine;
- ii) b mole % of 5(6)-amino-2-(p-aminophenyl)benzimidazole; and
- iii) 90-110 mole% of terephthaloyl dichloride

in a mixture of N-methyl pyrrolidone and containing c wt.% of calcium chloride,

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein c is within the range from 1 to 20, and wherein the ratio a : b ranges from 1 : 20 to 20 : 1, a + b is 100 mole%, and i), ii), and iii) together comprise 1-20 wt.% of the mixture,

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the product b.c is at least 50 and less than 215 and ~~that the composition is a aromatic polyamide in the crumb with~~ has a relative viscosity  $\eta_{rel}$  of at least 4,

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the crumb is defined as non-sticky particles at least 95% of which having an average diameter of 0.7-15 mm, and

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the crumb is formed directly by the copolymerizing.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A composition comprising an~~ An aromatic polyamide containing para-phenylene terephthalamide and 2-(p-phenylene)benzimidazole terephthalamide units, in the form of a crumb, obtained directly by copolymerizing para-phenylenediamine; 5(6)-amino-2-(aminophenyl)benzimidazole; and terephthaloyl dichloride in a mixture of N-methyl pyrrolidone and calcium chloride,

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the aromatic polyamide in the composition is a crumb with has a relative viscosity  $\eta_{rel}$  of at least 4, and  
wherein the crumb is defined as non-sticky particles at least 95% of which having an average diameter of 0.7-15 mm.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ aromatic polyamide of claim 2, wherein the ~~crumb~~ aromatic polyamide in the crumb has a relative viscosity  $\eta_{rel}$  between 4 and 7.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for making purified aromatic polyamide by coagulating and washing the crumb of claim 2 in water, followed by a drying step.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for making purified aromatic polyamide by coagulating and washing the crumb of claim 3 in water, followed by a drying step.

6. (New) A method for obtaining a composition comprising the purified aromatic polyamide obtained by the method of claim 4, the method comprising:

dissolving the purified aromatic polyamide in the form of a crumb in a solvent.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid, N-methyl pyrrolidone, dimethylacetamide and combinations thereof.

8. (New) A method for obtaining a composition comprising the purified aromatic polyamide obtained by the method of claim 5, the method comprising:

dissolving the purified aromatic polyamide in the form of a crumb in a solvent.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid, N-methyl pyrrolidone, dimethylacetamide and combinations thereof.

10. (New) A method for obtaining an aromatic polyamide containing para-phenylene terephthalamide and 2-(p-phenylene)benzimidazole terephthalamide units, in the form of a crumb, the method consisting of copolymerizing:

i) a mole % of para-phenylenediamine;

ii) b mole % of 5(6)-amino-2-(p-aminophenyl)benzimidazole; and

iii) 90-110 mole% of terephthaloyl dichloride

in a mixture of N-methyl pyrrolidone and containing c wt.% of calcium chloride,

wherein c is within the range from 1 to 20, and wherein the ratio a : b ranges from 1 : 20 to 20 : 1, a + b is 100 mole%, and i), ii), and iii) together comprise 1-20 wt.% of the mixture,

wherein the product b.c is at least 50 and less than 215 and the aromatic polyamide in the crumb has a relative viscosity  $\eta_{rel}$  of at least 4, and

wherein the crumb is defined as non-sticky particles at least 95% of which having an average diameter of 0.7-15 mm.